

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,144,777 to Tada et al. (hereinafter Tada), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,614 to Takeuchi. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Tada and Takeuchi, even in combination, fail to disclose or suggest (1) a detection section that detects which of the first and second original placement sections the original is placed in, and (2) a control section that causes the image formation section to form the images of a plurality of originals read by the image read section of one side of one recording medium in a predetermined layout based on the detection result of the detection section and the specification of the image orientation specifying section, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 12.

With respect to (1), the Office Action acknowledges that Tada fails to disclose the detection section and detecting step recited in independent claims 1 and 12, respectively. The Office Action alleges that Takeuchi remedies the deficiencies of Tada. In particular, the Office Action, citing column 3, lines 48-53 of Takeuchi, alleges that Takeuchi discloses a document sensor 27 that corresponds to the claimed detection section. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant respectfully submits that the document sensor 27 of Takeuchi (the alleged detection section) merely detects whether there is one or more documents 21 (the alleged original) in the tray 22 of Takeuchi (the alleged first and second original placement sections) (see Takeuchi, column 3, lines 51-53). That is, the document sensor 27 only detects whether one ore more documents 21 are in a single tray 22, and does not detect which of a first and second tray 22 the documents 21 are placed in. Thus, the combination of Tada and Takeuchi fails to disclose or suggest a detection section that detects which of the first and second

original placement sections the original is placed in, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 12.

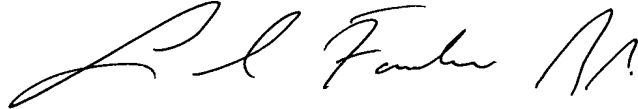
With respect to (2), the Office Action, citing col. 5, lines 52-55 of Tada, alleges that the CPU 4 of Tada corresponds to the claimed control section as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 12. However, Tada fails to teach or suggest that the CPU 4 of Tada (the alleged control section) causes the formation of images based on a detection result of a detection section, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 12. Tada teaches that the CPU 4 merely controls the printing processing unit 40 (see Tada, col. 5, lines 52-55). In addition, Takeuchi fails to teach or suggest that the document sensor 27 (the alleged detection section) outputs a detection result to a control section that causes the formation of images based on the detection result of the document sensor 27 and the specification of an image orientation specifying section as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 12. Thus, the combination of Tada and Takeuchi fails to disclose or render obvious the claimed control section, because neither Tada nor Takeuchi discloses or suggests that the CPU 4 of Tada (the alleged control section) is capable of causing the formation of images based on a detection result outputted from the document sensor 27 of Takeuchi (the alleged detection section).

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 12 are patentable over the combination of Tada and Takeuchi. Furthermore, claims 2-11 and 13-16 also are patentable over the combination of Tada and Takeuchi, at least in view of the patentability of independent claims 1 and 12, from which claims 2-11 and 13-16 respectively depend, as well as for the additional features these claims recite. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Lenwood Faulcon, Jr.  
Registration No. 61,310

JAO:LXF/mld

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**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 320850**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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